GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3850
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
FERTILIZER MONITORING SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortage of fertilizers in the country even after the implementation of online fertilizer monitoring system by the Government;

(b) the manner in which the shortage of fertilizers under the online Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) is ascertained in the country;

(c) whether the Government has developed any moni- toring system to upgrade the existing FMS;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide online advise consultation to the farmers with regard to use of fertilizers;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said proposal is likely to implemented; and

(f) whether the Government has any programme to encourage switch over from fertilizers to organic farming and if so, details action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): Madam, the availability of fertilizers in the country has been satisfactory over the years. Through Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS), ail the stake holders involved in the distribution process can have online information regarding despatch, receipts, availability and sales of various fertilizers. As dist- ribution within states is responsibility of state Gove- rnments, through FMS states can monitor availability position within states. With the introduction of FMS, the fertilizer availability scenario has become trans- parent and provides comprehensive information in a dynamic frame regarding availability of fertilizers upto district level. The FMS system also provides information about companies dealing with fertilizers, the rate of concession on each fertilizer, product wise MRPs etc. The information provided through FMS is useful not only to the industry but also to the States and more importantly to the farmer.

(c): Yes, Madam. The Department of Fertilizers has developed mobile Fertilizer Monitoring System (mFMS) to upgrade the existing Fertilizers Monitoring system (FMS) which captures the availability of fertilizers at various points in the supply chain. It also captures the sales made by the companies to the wholesalers and retailers, sales made by wholesalers to retailers and also the acknowledgement of receipt by the wholesalers and retailers. However, it does not capture the sale by the retailer to the farmers in the current phase.

(d)&(e): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme- National e- governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) under the Mission Mode Project with a view to promote focused and integrated implementation of e-Governance activities in agriculture in all States. One of the identified service under NeGP-A pertains to `Providing information on Soil Health`. This service aims at providing information on soil health conditions, Package of Practices suitable to the soil type, balanced use of fertilizers, automation of soil testing labs for quick dissemination of results, soil surveys, organic farming, details of soil testing labs, advice and expert grievance management through multiple service delivery channels including SMSs to the farmers.

The Scheme which was already under implementation in seven states i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Odisha and have been extended for implementation in the remaining 22 States and Union Territories from 2014-15 onward.

(f): Organic farming and production of organic inputs are being promoted under National Mission for Sustai- nable Agriculture (NMSA) across the country. Under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of NMSA, a fund of Rs. 852.75 lakhs have been released to various states. Financial assistance upto 50% of cost subject to a limit of Rs. 5,000/- per hectare and Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary is provided for promotion of organic inputs. Financial assistance upto @33% of total financial outlay subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 63 lakh for establishment of Agro/Vegetable waste compost production units to individuals / private agencies and 100% assistance upto a maximum limit of Rs. 190 lakh per unit to state Government Agencies for setting up Agro / Vegetable waste compost production unit upto capacity of 3000 Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) production capacity and financial assistance @ 25% of total financial outlay subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40.00 lakh to individuals/private agencies and 100% assistance to state Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of Rs. 160 lakh per unit upto 200 TPA production capacity is provided as back-ended subsidy through National Bank for Agricultural & Rural Development (NABARD). Financial assistance @ Rs. 20,000/ha subject to maximum of Rs. 40,000/- per

beneficiary for three year term is provided for adoption of organic farming through cluster approach as well as through adoption of organic village under Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification. Financial assistance of Rs. 10 lakh per village is provided for organic village adoption (maximum 10 villages per annum/state).